

Den Ernbergska restaurangen och dito askkoppen i Greencastle, USA

Inledning: Hjalmar Peterson Ernberg med familj emigrerade till USA 1897

Järnhandlare Robert Peterson i Karlskrona fick år 1852 med hustru Emma Olsen en son, Hjalmar Peterson Ernberg. Han gifte sig, 44 år gammal, med den nitton år yngre Anna Sjödin från Hästveda. I april 1897 födde Anna sonen Otto Hjalmar, som Ingemar Ernberg har porträtterat i Släkt-Kuriren nr 22: *En uppskattad affärsman i Indiana*.



Två versioner Hjalmar Peterson Ernberg (1852-1931)

Den 1 oktober samma år som Otto föddes emigrerade föräldrarna med sin fem månader gamle baby till USA. Otto följde sin fader i spåren och blev affärsman i bilbranschen. Han gifte sig med amerikanskan Julia Frazier. Paret fick år 1926 en dotter döpt till Anna Marie.

"I am known as "Annie" now, but until I was about 16 it was ONLY "Anna Marie". Tom, my first husband called me "Ann", so as long as I am called to eat call me anything."

Nu börjar det bli intressant! Det är nämligen Annie, född Ernberg, i egen hög person som låtit meddela detta. Hon lever nämligen än – 86 år gammal. Hon och jag är femlingar! Vi har fått kontakt tack vare några artiklar i tidningen *Banner Graphic* i Greencastle.

Banner Graphic artiklar om Ernbergs restaurang och askkopp samt intervju av Annie Ernberg
Tidningen *Banner Graphic* har publicerat följande tre artiklar: 5/1, 12/1 och 19/1 2012.

Old antique shop receives approval as law office (5/1 2012)

With an attorney's office right across the street and a florist on the corner, it would seem the property at 111 W. Walnut St. might be perfect for a law office/residence. After all, the building in question once housed an antique shop itself [...]

It may be winter, but a paint and repair crew is hard at work, rehabbing the house at 111 W. Walnut St. in Greencastle. The property is now owned by local attorney James Holder, who will be moving into the residence and operating his law office there as a home occupation after approval Tuesday night by the Zoning Board. Holder said he wants to restore the home's exterior, which will include new windows, renovation of the porch and painting all around [...]



Den Erbergska fastigheten är utvändigt sig lik än i dag. Här drev Otto och Anna sin *Restaurant and Delicatessen* 1952-53, som sedan alltså efterträddes av en antikaffär och nu finns här ett advokatkontor i fastigheten.

Ernberg lät tillverka askkoppar, se bilden nedan, där de typiska vindskåporna syns väl.

No butts about it, ashtray sparks mystery (12/1 2012)



An old ashtray shows the property at 111 W. Walnut St., Greencastle, when it was Ernberg's Restaurant and Delicatessen.

As a veteran local auctioneer of nearly 40 years, Greencastle's Mr. Eilar not only has a lifetime of memories but quite a cache of souvenirs as well. He's got an old Greencastle cabinet bearing a bronze plaque denoting its homegrown history. Stored inside it are a number of old greenish Coca-Cola bottles, including one of the old rounded originals and a couple with "Greencastle" embossed on the bottom. Most everyone who has lived in Greencastle very long knows some of the history behind those items.

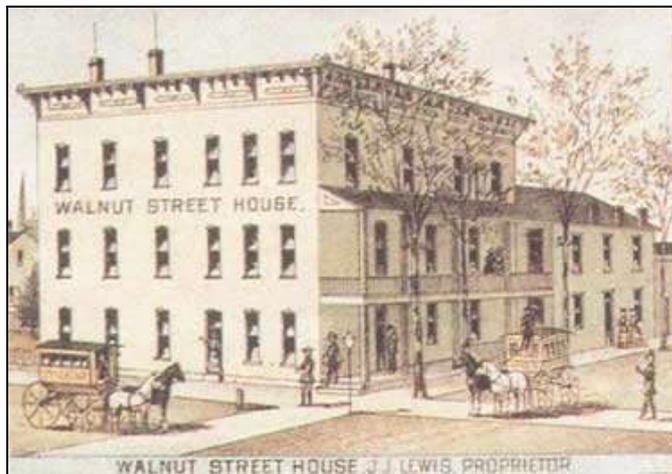
But even Eilar is baffled by the restaurant pictured on a glass ashtray in his possession. A photo in the Banner Graphic last week of the old Rattray antique shop at 111 W. Walnut St. jangled Eilar's memory. From his pocket, the old auctioneer produced a clear glass ashtray with blue images advertising Ernberg's Restaurant and Delicatessen.

With the same distinctive dormer (*vindskupa*) and roofline that is there today, it is unmistakably the same building at the northeast corner of Walnut and Market streets. The picture on the ashtray also shows a couple of large trees that are long gone and a stylish canopied entrance from the street.

"Looks like it was quite a restaurant in its day," Eilar offered.

Unfortunately, not even the longtime auctioneer or any of his contemporaries has the faintest idea when that heyday occurred. "I've been an auctioneer since 1973," said Eilar, who still does specialty sales and estate sales, "and I don't remember it. I showed it (the ashtray) to Danny Bumgardner the other day and talked to several others but they don't remember the place."

It stands to reason Ernberg's was probably popular back when the old Commercial Hotel was in its glory at the southeast corner of Walnut and Jackson (the site of a First Christian Church parking lot since the mid 1980s).



T.v: Commercial Hotel, idag Walnut Street är rivet. Det låg granne med Ernbergs restaurang.
T.h: First Christian Church, som i dag använder f.d. hotellmarken som parkeringsplats.

One clue to its age is the phone number shown on the Ernberg's ashtray -- "Phone 25," it says. That probably puts the date closer to the days of a live local operator than the era of the smartphone.

Greencastle defacto historian and onetime "Hoosier Know-It-Alls" TV game show winner Jinsie Bingham, of course, does recall the Ernbergs. She says they lived across the road from her Bloomington Street home before they moved to Terre Haute sometime in the 1950s, she believes. That means Eilar's ashtray is probably 50-60 years old or more.

For now Eilar is content to keep his unique treasure with his other Greencastle collectibles, like a distinctive bell from Gardner Bros. and other relics of our local past.

"It's just something I probably bought at a household sale," Eilar said, not remembering when or where. "I have certain things like that. When I like them I put them in a drawer. I've probably had it for years."

Where there's smoke, there's fire, ashtray mystery proves (19/12 2012)



An old ashtray showing Ernberg's Restaurant and Delicatessen at 111 W. Walnut St. spared a local mini-mystery that readers have helped solve.

Apparently you don't need a rumpled raincoat or an old, gnawed-on cigar to help solve a mystery. Not if you're lucky enough to make connections with the right Putnam people. Last week, a story in the Banner Graphic centered around an old glass ashtray featuring a long-ago image of Ernberg's Restaurant and Delicatessen at 111 W. Walnut St. in Greencastle.

Longtime local auctioneer Mr. Eilar has had that ashtray in his possession for number of years, and when a photo appeared of renovation work on the 111 W. Walnut St. structure Eilar was moved to share the mystery that has long baffled him. A week later, not only can we report when Ernberg's existed but who opened it, how they got the ashtray and what happened to the family.

After the ashtray story was published and subsequently included on the Banner Graphic website, a number of interested readers offered informative tips. We got telephone calls, cards and letters, emails and even a fax. We benefited from a little amateur detective work by the offspring of two longtime local newspapermen. The whole thing even sparked international intrigue when a former resident contacted us from Ottawa, Canada. But more importantly we heard not only from folks who dined there, but the daughter of the owner and even the local man who suggested the ashtray as a promotional item for the eatery.

We now know that Ernberg's opened for business on March 29, 1952. It offered Swedish-American cooking, featuring the then-novel idea of a smorgasbord (more commonly known as buffets these days) on Sundays. We know it was short-lived (possibly because of the cost of fine dining), closing sometime in 1953, according to **Annie (Ernberg) Carney DeGrande, daughter of Julia and Otto Ernberg**, who has contacted us numerous times via our website and personal email.

"Mom did have excellent food," she said, echoing others' comments made on the website, "just Greencastle wasn't ready for expensivity (sic)." Annie, who celebrated her 85th birthday in December and has lived in Tucson the past 26 years, fondly recalls the dessert at Ernberg's. "Dodie (Hecko), whose husband was a state policeman (Trooper George Hecko), made the pies ... so-o-o-o good." Another old newspaper ad shows chef George Traeger at work, noting his 20 years of experience with the tag line, "For the best, stop at Ernberg's."

Would-be local historian Jim Zeis owns a number of old Greencastle phone books. Ernberg's was listed in the 1953 book, he said, while a 1949 edition lists Police Chief Roy Newgent as living at the 111 W. Walnut St. address.

"Mom did have a very good restaurant for a little over a year," Annie noted. "The picture (on the ashtray) isn't quite accurate but the place did have a big front porch and people enjoyed eating out there, just like in the big city. I'm glad people remember it."

They also remember her father Otto's car dealership in the North Jackson Street building that now houses Progressive Printing. Otto Ernberg had the local Chevrolet/Buick dealership that later became Jim Harris Chevrolet in the same facility.

And it is at the Ernberg car dealership where our stories intersect as lifelong Greencastle resident Johnny Long can vividly detail how the ashtray came to be. Long says that as a representative of the Kemper Thomas Co., Cincinnati, he regularly called on Otto Ernberg, hoping to sell him promotional items for the car dealership.

Long, who at age 87 is still active in the promotional advertising field after 61 years, remembered running into Mrs. Ernberg at her husband's business. She told him she was starting a restaurant and wondered what promotional items he might suggest.

"I said, 'How about ashtrays?'" Long recalled. "And she said, 'Design me one.'"

He even remembers her original order being a gross of those souvenirs. And in short order, she requested another 144 of the ashtrays, which cost 42 cents apiece, Long recalled. "The selling point of those were that you couldn't deface the imprint," Long said, explaining that the ashtrays were fired at 2,000 degrees. "You could run a sharp key or your knife over it and you'd ruin the sharpness of your knife before you'd ever scratch the image."

The ashtrays were popular, he noted, not only because almost everyone smoked everywhere in 1952 but because of a design that positioned the cigarette at an angle that would make it burn itself out before it burned anything else.

"Yeah, back then we sold a lot of ashtrays because of all the smoking business," Long said. "I don't sell too many of them anymore. Most people use them for paperweights these days."

Long fondly remembers the short-lived Ernberg's eatery. "It not only served delicious food but the interior was gorgeous with all that beautiful woodwork.

So there you have it. The simple act of De Eilar sharing a mini-mystery has brought back fond memories for many. "Isn't all this grand?!" Annie gushed in summary at all the much-belated attention. "It is nice to know that people remember Mom and how gracious she was."

Annies brev vintern 2013 till mig, i sammandrag



Bild från 1924: Otto Ernberg och hans amerikanska maka Julia, född Fraizer

Hello!

I received e-mail from the Banner newspaper in my home town of Greencastle Indiana, in which you had asked about the Ashtray Mystery. You asked about my family. My name is Annie (Ernberg) DeGrande. I am the daughter of Otto Hjalmar Ernberg and Julia Frazier. My grandmother was Anna Sjudene (spelling?) Ernberg. I am so thrilled to have been contacted by the paper and you. This is a small world, is it not?

I lived in Greencastle approximately 26 years, moving to Ohio and then coming to Arizona 27 years ago. I am 86 years old now. My father passed away in 1949, and my mother Julia in 1980. I remember when my grandmother took a year's sabbatical, I think it would have been around 1931. She was a textile teacher in Berea Kentucky [...]

Otto Ernberg, my father, was employed many years by General Motors Chevrolet Division. In 1940 he purchased a Chevrolet/Buick Car Agency in the small town of Greencastle in Indiana that is where my (first) husband, Tom Carney was employed [...]

In 1952 my mother, Julia, opened the Ernberg Restaurant from which the ashtray originated. I think the place closed in 1953. The building where the restaurant was is still standing. I haven't been to Indiana for some time, but I asked my friend about it.

I am in a fairly good health, and one year in remission from Markel's Cell Cancer.

I work (*sic!*) at home as a medical transcriptionist doing doctor dictation for a radiology company, for whom I have worked off and on for twenty years. My youngest daughter lives here in town as well as her daughter and four children so I am fortunate to have family nearby. I have been a widow for almost 20 years. My other two daughters are in Texas and Ohio. My son and baby daughter have passed on [...]

My 1st husband Tom Carney was born 1922 in Sicily Italy and died 1990. We were married in 1947 and divorced in 1973. He was a car salesman and worked for my Dad, Otto. We had three children: Lee b. 1949 and d. 1990, was employed by Junior Achievement; Julia b. 1952, married to Ray Davis, Texas, two children, head of Special needs in Ohio: Sally b. 1955, one of twins, one deceased, resident of special needs in Ohio; Karen b. 1956, single with one child and four grandchildren, works for Agero Corp. in Tucson Arizona.

If you google Anna Ernberg it will bring up a number of them (one quite sexy), anyhow, pick one that includes Kentucky college, Berea, and you can find quite extensive articles and a picture of my grandmother Anna, Otto's and Axel's mother – if not maybe I can send.

My second husband Frank DeGrande was born 1910 and died 1993. We married in 1976. He was with the Ohio School System. He was also born in Sicily. No children.

We traveled quite a bit, and every town we stayed in I always looked in the telephone book to see if anyone else had our name. I didn't come up with anyone. Also, my son Lee sometime in the 1980's took a vacation going to England, France, and Sweden, but it was in the summer and when he tried to contact anyone no one was home, all on vacation, and of course he was only a few days in Sweden [...]

We have obviously different e-mail systems, as I have problems reading your appendices. My printer and scanner are on the "fritz" and nothing seems to work, but I have my computer "whiz" to get here soon and see what can be done and at that time I will send the picture of Otto and Julia [...]

Please don't give up on me, am STILL having problems with my new printer. Am about ready to drop it off the next trash barrel. Anyhow, am still trying. I may dump this one and just get another that I can operate [...]

I finally have my printer fixed. The expression "on the fritz" means not working or messed up, not usable, but I purchased a new color laser printer and hope I can learn to use it. The salesman brought out last nite and so I can print all of the great pictures you have so kindly sent me. But that is why you received the picture of Mom and Dad. We were testing the machine and I didn't realize it had gone through to you, but I am glad you received it 0[...]

Annie inlagd på sjukhus i februari 2013

The reason I have been delayed in answering your letters is that I have been in and out of the hospital. A couple of weeks ago I had an attack of "a-fib", short for atrial fibrillation, in which the heart beats too fast. I went to Emergency Room and was checked out. I have had a series of tests since (I won't bore you with all that I have had) and fortunately all have come back near normal. Nothing to worry about, I am just getting old. I guess, at 86 I can't have everything work well all the time. Anyhow, I am feeling and doing better. I am sorry that I have been so tardy in getting back to you.

I have always heard about the love of sailing and how it can become relaxing, but the only water activity I have done is just swimming, may be canoeing a couple of times and of course a row boat down the river, really not much [...]

I hope I can get back in the "swing of things" and be a little more attentive. Thank you and I wish you and yours the best,

As always, Annie.

*

Hello, Jonas...finally!

Sorry, but I have to go into the office for a few days a month to be refreshed with some new stuff on the computer, they are changing things all the time, and so my time is crushed, mainly because I am not accustomed to being there.

I am distressed because with my new printer I cannot scan. I did not know that when I purchased it and now I am stuck. Anyhow, I do have some friends that are able to scan and send. So I will try to get a few pictures together and ask her to send them to you. I am sure that I have the Ernberg nose, as I look more like my father and grandmother than my mother's side of the family.

I do want you to know that my children have been brought up with a few Swedish foods. I used to make Swedish meatballs, my grandmother's recipe. I have a friend that owns a sausage shop and he makes potato sausage once a year around Xmas, it is called Korv is it not? And Lingonberries on top of cakes, ice cream, and of course, salami. I was not a fan of Lutefisk, my Dad and Mom were and at Xmas we had it. Rice pudding of course, and kids teathed on zwieback (*skivad småskorpa*). Those are the main things that I still do.

I also noticed my youngest daughter's name is Karen....and your wife is Karin....loved the laughing picture of her.

Must go for now. Best of all to all of you,

Annie



"laughing Karin"

Dear Jonas

I am glad to know that we are Dapperlings (*femlingar*). We are not, as you first thought, second cousins, but we are still family, and that is what matters. My birthday is 19 December 1926 (getting old but still around).

Take care.

Anna Marie



Annies barn Sally och Lee, samt mamma Annie själv (=Anna Marie) och maken Tom

Hello Jonas,

After such awhile, I am so sorry but have been under the weather for three weeks with brochial pneumoria, am just getting up and out on my feet, bur will work that out soon. So back to us, we are still a family, even if it is distant cousins, no matter [...]

My new printer is not working for me as I need, and I have to practice. Things just won't fall into place, especially when you get older. Good excuse right???

Anna Marie



Annie's bröllop. Texten på kortet: "Miniatures were done for my Grandmother Anna probably 1932.(I do not know what writing says). Men där står: Till min kära Anna en liten gåva från hennes tillgivna Agnes.) Anna Marie and Tom Carney Wedding Day September 3, 1947, same day as Julia and Otto, September 3, 1924."



Bild 1960. Mamma Julia (född Fraizer, Hjalmar Ernbergs hustru), barnbarnen Julia o Karen



Annie 1988...



...och 2013...



...2013

I don't have many pictures of me, but I will try to get some rounded up. I never liked to have my picture taken anyhow and gave them all away.

Ernbergs familj i USA:s Federal Census

I Släkt-Kuriren nr 25 står att läsa om Annies farmor Anna Ernberg, född Sjödin, som besökte Stockholm efter 33 års bortavaro och då blev intervjuad av Stockholms-Tidningen.

Jag har forskat efter Ernberg på Ancestry.se. där man finner följande om Hjalmar Peterson Ernberg i USA:s federala folkräkning år 1910:

Hemvist 1910: Brooklyn Ward 1, Kings, New York

Härstamning: White; Immigrerade år: 1897

Familjeöverhuvud: Self Head (Chef)

Civilstånd: Married

Hushållsmedlemmar: Hjalmar, hustru Anna, barnen Otto och Axel är nämnda, samt tretton människor till. Hjalmar förestod dem alla som "chef" på denna adress och ansvarade för inlämnandet av mantalsuppgifter till Federal Census.

I USA:s federala folkräkning år 1930 står följande om Hjalmar, som nu förlorat ansvaret för att inlämna uppgifter till Federal Census Myndigheten noterar:

-Hemvist 1930: West New Brighton, Richmond, New York

- Civilstånd: Divorced
- Immigrerade: 1897
- Släktskapsförhållande till familjeöverhuvud: Inmate (= intagen, som kan betyda intern, intagen på institution, pensionär, patient).

Denna källa är upprättad året före Hjalmars död. Han är inte längre "Chef" i hushållet, och dessutom skild! Hustru Anna och sönerna Otto och Axel har lämnat honom.

Axel Robert Ernberg

Axel (Ottos lillebror) är född i USA. Han bosatte sig 1926 i Tampa i Florida, och livnärde sig då enligt en uppgift i Ancestry.se som "slsmn", (*salesman – vad vet du om amerikanska förkortningar?*). Han gjorde sedan karriär som "Colonel in the Army Judge Advocate Section" och advokat och dog 1978. På hans gravsten finns inskriptionen: AXEL R ERNBERG Veteran; LT (*löjtnant?*), COL, US ARMY, WORLD WAR I & II. Släkten Ernberg kan vara stolt över att ha en hedrad krigsveteran i släkten, som deltagit i två världskrig (om än som advokat på kontoret?) och har därmed bidragit till att Wilhelm II och Adolf Hitler i Deutsches Reich föll. Den dåliga bilden visar Axels gravvård.



Axel var gift med Dorothy, född 1913 och avliden i Berea 1993. De hade inga barn och är båda begravda, tillsammans med Anna Sjödin, på Berea Cemetery, Berea, Madison County, Madison, Kentucky, USA. (Se Föreningens arkiv för mer exakta datum.)

Med Axel Ernbergs bortgång är släktgrenen Ernberg i USA utdöd på svärdsidan.

Jonas Hök
Vaxholm, April 2013